どこにもない国

草間さかえ

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どこにもない国　009
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"The Country That Doesn't Exist"

MAN. GETTING OFF A BATTLESHIP JUST TO TWIDDLE OUR THUMBS ON THIS TINY ISLAND FIXING A RADIO TOWER...
IS THIS A JOB FOR A LANDING FORCE?
I'M TELLIN' YOU!
squeak
IT'S OUR TALENTLESS CAPTAIN TAKEUCHI WE HAVE TO THANK FOR THIS PLAYING-ARMY CRAP
I WANT TO GET BACK IN THE WATER SOON
I CAN'T TAKE BEING ON LAND TOO LONG
HAYA-KAWA!
munch

HAYAKAWA'S AN UNLUCKY BASTARD, ISN'T HE?
THERE HE GOES AGAIN
WE'RE SUPPOSED TO BE TAKING A BREAK NOW
THREE DAYS AGO HE SLUGGED ME
"How many times do I have to say it?"
HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT!?
smack
I LOVE THIS MOMENT
THE FACT THAT HIS HANDS ARE SHAKING
rustle

THE FACT THAT I'M THE ONLY ONE WHO GETS TO SEE HIS FACE LIKE THIS LIKE HE'S ABOUT TO CRY
I'm sorry...
YOU'D BETTER...
GRIT YOUR TEETH!
Whack
NO MATTER WHERE WE GO WHETHER THERE ARE PEOPLE AROUND OR NOT
FOR SOME REASON, I ALWAYS GET THE FEELING IT'S JUST THE TWO OF US

COME TO THE TENT AFTER YOU GET SOME ICE ON THAT FACE!
STOMP
WHAT
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THEY THINK I'M A COWARD!
IS THE POINT OF HITTING YOU IN FRONT OF EVERYONE!?
IT DOES SIR

IF YOU, AS THE SUPERIOR OFFICER, DON'T DRAW THE LINE
...THE UNIT WILL FALL APART
AND IF IT DOES...
YOU'RE GOING TO HAVE SOME SERIOUS TROUBLE FROM THE HIGH COMMAND...
WHY DOES HE DO THIS...?
COOL OFF YOUR HAND A BIT
IT'S A DAMP TOWEL
HERE...
rustle
Hayakawa
EXCUSE ME

ROAR
bang
bang
bang
splash
splash
splash
WHAT!?
drop
drop
I WONDER WHY
I FEEL CLOSER TO HIM WHEN HE'S HITTING ME

BOOM
EVACU-ATE!
ALL UNIT MEMBERS EVACUATE!
CAPTAIN!
LEAVE THE EQUIPMENT!
JUST GO!
roar
WATCH OUT!
ENEMY RAID!
BOOM

I HAD A DREAM ABOUT EVERYONE
crackle
THEY WERE LINED UP OUTSIDE MY TENT. ALL IN SUMMER SAILING UNIFORM.
WHEN I LOOKED AT THEIR FACES, I SAW MEN WITHOUT SOULS.
DID YOU SAY...
...EVERYONE WAS DEAD?
ALLIE... UNPR... AMB... DE...
...ES... UNIT ERY NT.
STATIC
STATIC
STATIC
...AND THE WAR?

*The allied forces... unprepared unit ambushed every deployment

UNABLE TO USE MY EARS OR MY LEGS LIKE THIS IT MUST BE A CHORE TO BE WITH ME
I'M SO SORRY
The battles continue on the snow thorn front
It seems that the target of that raid three days ago was the radar tower. No more enemy planes
HE CAN'T HEAR ME
SIR! YOU WERE HURT SO BADLY YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUS FOR THREE DAYS I THINK YOU SHOULD BE PROUD OF THE FACT YOU MADE IT MADE A-
AH
Is there anything you want to do?
scratch
scratch

I WANT TO GO TO THE RIVER
rustle
I'M GETTING IN
HUH?
I CAN FEEL HIS HEARTBEAT
WE'RE SO CLOSE RIGHT NOW
BUT HE STILL FEELS SO FAR FROM ME

GIVE ME A HAND
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
WHY...?
I FEEL KIND OF STRANGE
shiver
BUT...
pat

AH
pant
shiver
shiver
splash
press
tremble
...!

HAYA-
KAWA
JUMP
WHY?
WHAT'S YOUR FAMILY LIKE?
I HAVE A MOTHER AND SISTERS IN IZU
AH
One Mother Six Sisters
Haha
WELL YES YOU NORMALLY ONLY HAVE ONE MOTHER
I HAVEN'T EVEN TOUCHED HIM AND I ALREADY CAME

I SEE
SO YOU'RE FROM IZU. IT'S A NICE PLACE
THE INSIDE OF MY PANTS ARE ALL GROSS
I DIDN'T
...WRITE ANYTHING ABOUT IZU
CAN I WASH THESE?
splash
YOU CAN HEAR...
...THEN YOU ALREADY KNOW EVERYTHING!
IF YOU CAN HEAR,

THAT NO ONE'S REALLY DEAD...
AND THE REASON THEY DID...
THAT IT WASN'T A DREAM, JUST THAT EVERYONE ELSE WENT HOME.
...WAS BECAUSE THE WAR IS OVER!
YES

I WOKE UP RIGHT AS THAT MESSAGE WAS COMING IN
THEN WHY...!?
splash
MAYBE I JUST WANTED TO BE ALONE WITH YOU

YOU'RE NOT ANY DIFFERENT, ARE YOU?

Dokonimo Nai Kuni

kusama sakae

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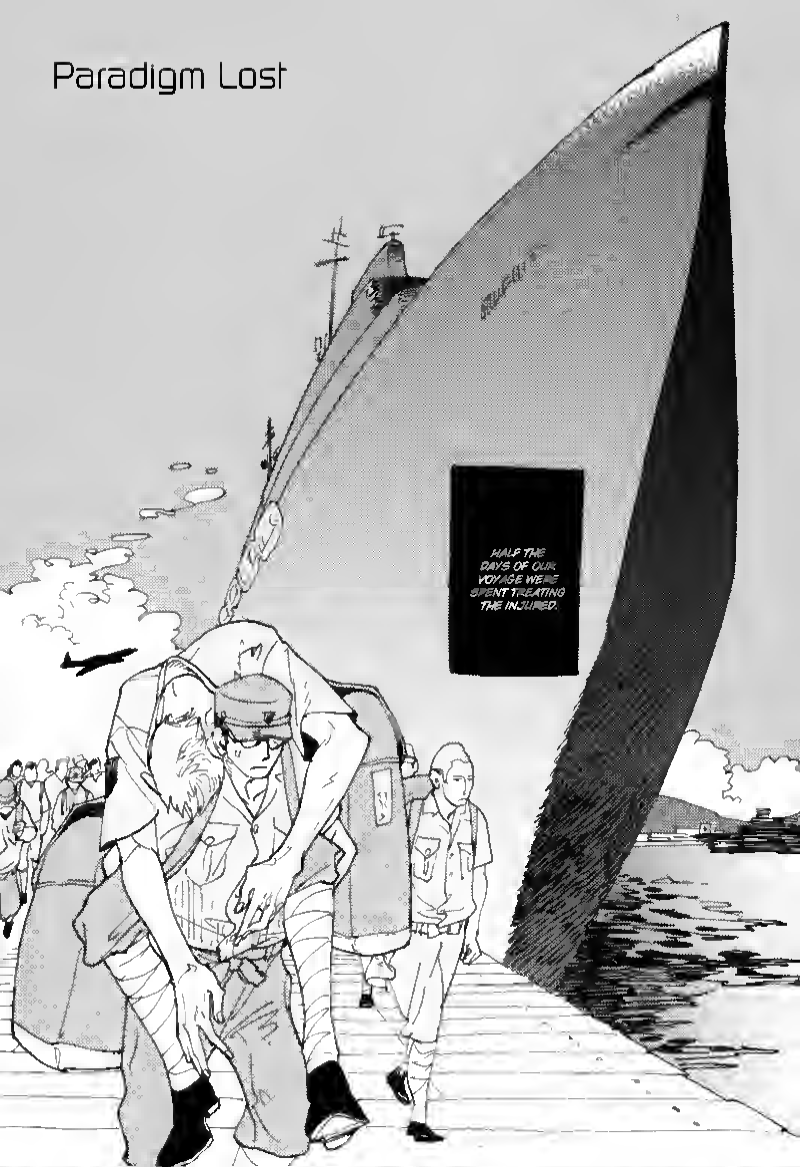
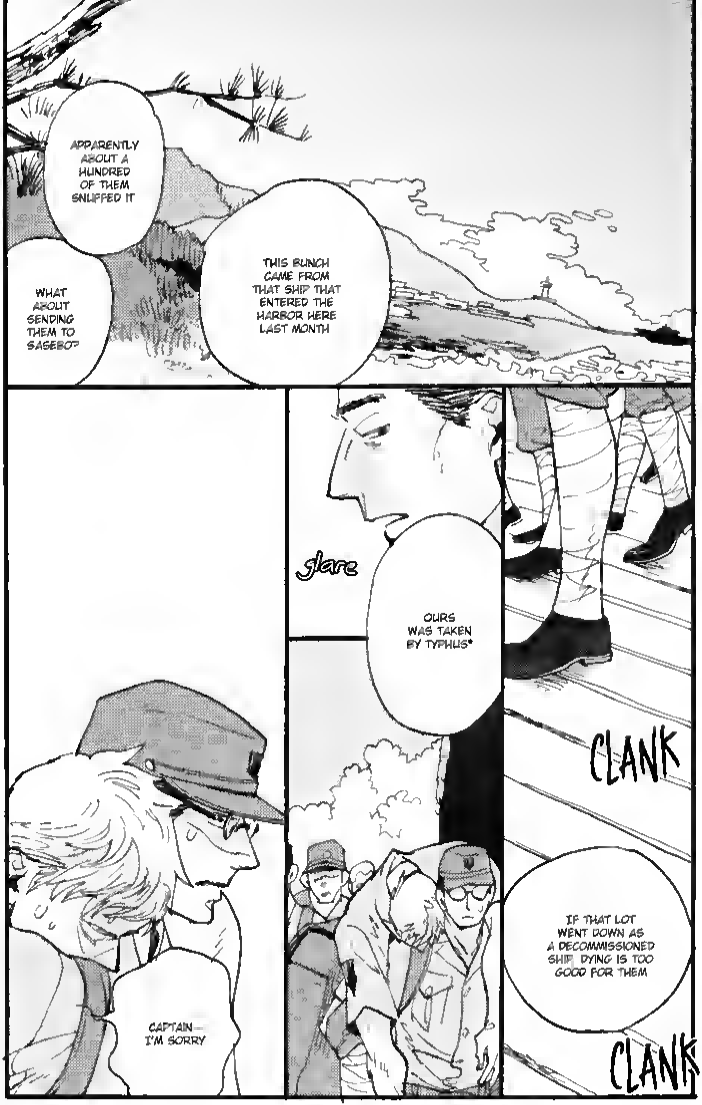
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY
FROM NAKAMA!
2017


HALF THE DAYS OF OUR VOYAGE WERE SPENT TREATING THE INJURED.


APPARENTLY ABOUT A HUNDRED OF THEM SNUFFED IT
THIS BUNCH CAME FROM THAT SHIP THAT ENTERED THE HARBOR HERE LAST MONTH
WHAT ABOUT SENDING THEM TO SASEBO?
glare
OURS WAS TAKEN BY TYPHUS*
CLANK
IF THAT LOT WENT DOWN AS A DECOMMISSIONED SHIP, DYING IS TOO GOOD FOR THEM
CLANK
CAPTAIN— I'M SORRY

*TN. As in typhoid fever

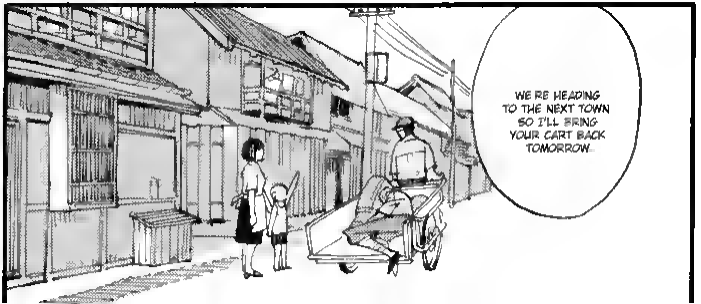
DYING OF WEAKNESS IS HORRIBLE BUT WE'RE PASSED THE WORST OF IT
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
YOU'VE FINISHED THE REGULATION THREE DAYS OF QUARANTINE, RIGHT?
YOU MAY NOT COME IN YET!
Please show your military registration
A member of my family was in the ship yesterday
It's Yamaguchi Ichio
HAYAKAWA
IT'S JAPAN

DOES ANYONE KNOW, ON THE SHIP THAT CAME IN THREE DAYS AGO, IS THERE SOMEONE CALLED ISHIDA!?
ANYONE!
PRIVATE IN THE IMPERIAL NAVY HAYAKAWA MASAMI
DOES ANYONE KNOW THIS MAN!?

CRUNCH
SNOOZE
WAS IT ALWAYS
CRUNCH
SUCH A WHITE DUSTY COUNTRY?
CRUNCH
THAT ISLAND WAS A LOT MORE

MR SOLDIER?
HEAR, PLEASE USE OUR CART!
tug
PLEASE HAVE SOME WATER
I'LL PUT SOME WATER IN YOUR CANTEEN, ALL RIGHT?
set down
NGH

MY DADDY WAS A SAILOR IN THE NAVY TOO
HAYAKAWA, CAN YOU DRINK A LITTLE?


WE'RE HEADING TO THE NEXT TOWN SO I'LL BRING YOUR CART BACK TOMORROW.

HM?
WHO SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME
squeak
YOUR NIECE, ON YOUR FATHER'S SIDE
ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO. HER FAMILY FOUR OF THEM, MOVED IN HERE.
CAN IT BE..?
WE HEARD YOU'D BEEN LOST IN ACTION IN THE SOUTHERN FRONT!
ARE YOU SHIN-SAN FROM THE TAKEUCHI FAMILY!?

ON MY FATHER'S SIDE
CRASH
clatter
YES ?
MAYBE A JAPANESE SWORD
MAYBE A NAGINATA. MAYBE A BAMBOO SPEAR. WHAT SHOULD I USE TO TAKE IT BACK?

CREAK
Wh-
WHO THE HELL ARE YOU!?
click
...!!
TAKEUCHI SHINSUKE
Kyaaa
Kyaaa
NOW LET'S JUST MAKE THIS CLEAR. EXACTLY WHOSE RELATIVES MIGHT YOU BE?

AHHH!
glint
STOMP
SLASH
THUD

I SEE THEY TOOK MY MOTHER'S KIMONOS
clack
stride
AND MY BOOKS
SO THEY SOLD EVERY SINGLE THING OF VALUE HUH?
SHIN-SAN! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
CAPTAIN...
AT LEAST THEY LEFT THE MORTUARY TABLETS

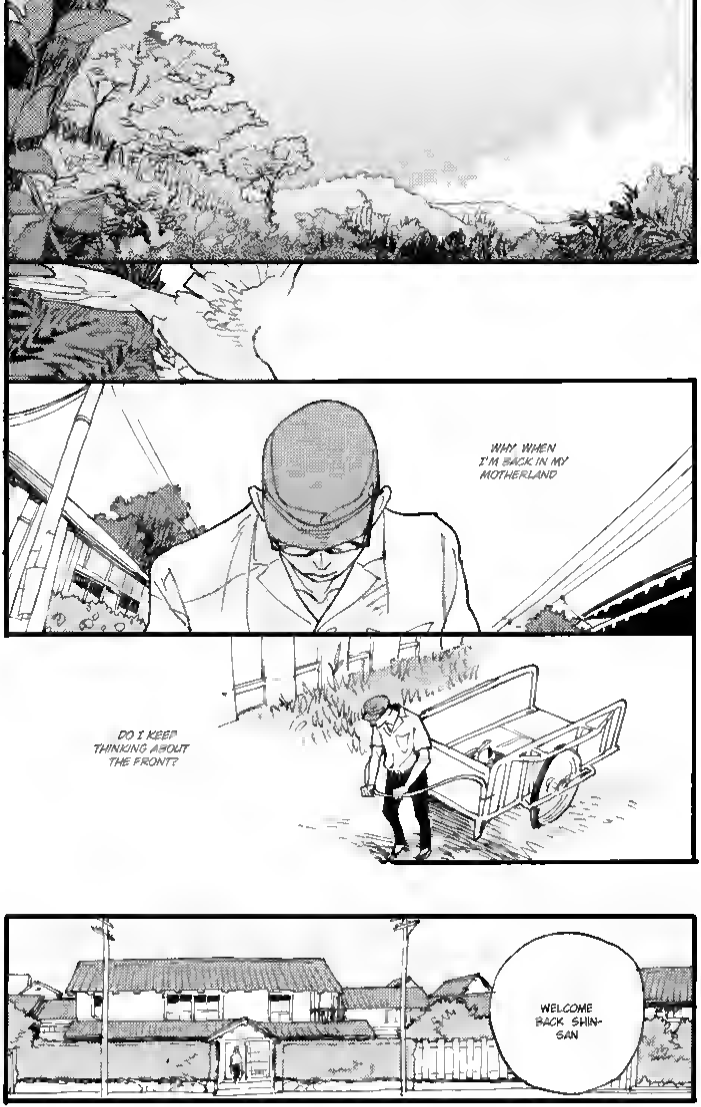
HAYAKAWA!
ALL FOUR OF THEM JUST CAME RUNNING OUT THE DOOR!
CAPTAIN— DON'T BE SO RECKLESS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO? THEY WEREN'T RELATIVES AFTER ALL WERE THEY ?
NONSENSE. IN SOME WAYS, I'M GRATEFUL.
THEY LEFT ME A DRIED UP WALLET AND DINNER TOO.
You shouldn't make fun of an old lady!

THERE WE GO
THAT'S THE LAST OF THAT FAMILY'S JUNK
HM?
TOSS
CRASH
POP
crackle
crackle
MAYBE I'LL GIVE THIS TO THE KID WE GOT THE CART FROM

Shin from the Takeuchi came back, you say!?
chomp
stomp
pluck
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE SAFE...!
MR. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT.
I'M GLAD YOU CAME
I'M GOING TO RETURN A CART I BORROWED
AT THE SAME TIME I'D LIKE TO STOP BY MY OLD JOB
I'VE MADE SOME RICE GRUEL FOR HIM...

AND THERE'S A MELON COOLING IN THE WELL.
I DON'T NEED A BABYSITTER!
YEAH? I'D LIKE TO SEE WHAT YOU WOULD DO IF THAT FAMILY CAME BACK
LEAVE IT TO ME!
BUMP
MAYBE YOU COULD CUT THAT LIP FOR HIM.
CAPTAIN!

rattle
rattle
!
PRIVATE IN THE IMPERIAL NAVY HAYAKAWA MA
rustle
CREAK
?
grit


WHY, WHEN I'M BACK IN MY MOTHERLAND
DO I KEEP THINKING ABOUT THE FRONT?
WELCOME BACK, SHIN-SAN

HAYAKAWA IS UNEXPECTEDLY HUMAN-LIKE SINCE GETTING BACK
WAR'S OVER! HE CAN'T EXACTLY CALL YOU "CAPTAIN" ANYMORE CAN HE?
"SHIN-SAN"...?
HE SAYS YOU TOOK CARE OF HIM THE WHOLE VOYAGE. IS THAT RIGHT?
AND EVEN MORE IMPRESSIVE ALL THE MEMBERS OF YOUR UNIT SURVIVED?
THAT'S QUITE SOMETHING
IT WAS A COINCIDENCE
SO

IT'S AN ALL-MALE HOUSEHOLD DEAR. I WORRY
YOU'RE ALWAYS SO KIND
HERE'S YOUR SHARE FROM THE POTLUCK
clack
clack
clack
PASSED AWAY HERE AT THE HOUSE BEFORE THE EVACUATION
SHIN-SAN— YOU KNOW, YOUR MOTHER.
MOTHER?
MY MOTHER?
BOTH OF THEM, THEN
I'M SURE YOU WANTED TO SEE HER.

TAP
CHICKEN STEW, IS IT?
WELL LOOK AT YOU, ALL UP AND ABOUT!
IN THAT CASE, HAYAKAWA.
PRIVATE IN THE IMPERIAL NAVY HAYAKAWA MASAKI
ABOUT THAT WINTER GOURD AND BOILED SHRIMP YOU GAVE US LAST TIME,
—DID YOU MAKE THAT YOURSELF?
IT HAD A VERY REFINED TASTE I LOVED IT.

*TN: Ryokan. Japanese traditional-style inn. expensive but very popular with Japanese as well as foreign guests

WINTER SQUASH AND SHRIMP
HUH?
OH
PROBABLY BECAUSE THAT'S THE KIND OF THING THEY GIVE YOU AT A CLASSY RYOKAN*
IT'S A VERY SMALL RYOKAN CALLED "BANKAKUROU"
Ooga
SHIN-SAN, NEXT WEEK
—YOU! SAID YOU'D START BACK AT YOUR OLD JOB RIGHT?
YES
OH, CAP-

chew
THE NEIGHBORHOOD PRESIDENT'S SON IS A CRAFTSMAN,
HE'LL LET ME START WORKING FOR HIM NEXT WEEK TOO
YOU'D PREFER A RYOKAN HUH?
chew
swallow
I SEE.
BEFORE THE WAR, WAS I ALWAYS SUCH AN INCONSIDERATE MAN?

I'M SURE I LEFT SOMETHING
CLACK
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
...SOME PART OF ME BACK ON THAT ISLAND
What?
YOU SEEM TO BE OFF SOMEWHERE ELSE THESE DAYS
...AND THIS IS JUST MY FAR, FAR AWAY HOMELAND

WHAT IS IT?
IT'S JUST THAT THIS WOULD BE THE FIRST TIME SINCE THE ISLAND
WAIT, PLEASE...
I WONDER HOW MANY TIMES YOU CAME IN MY MOUTH
THAT'S NOT QUITE WHAT I MEAN
IT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE STRIPPED YOU IN A KIMONO

PRIVATE IN THE IMPERIAL NAVY HAYAKAWA MASAMI
HAYAKAWA!
CAPTAIN? DID THAT HURT?
NO, I'M SORRY
IF ONLY WE COULD LIVE LIKE THIS FOREVER.
drop
drop
NGH!

IT'S NOT THAT
I'M SURE
ARE YOU SURE?
COME JUST LIKE THIS

BOOOOOM

YEAH. TYPHOON COMING, APPARENTLY.
lazy
rattle
AHH...MAYBE THAT'S WHY I FEEL THIS WAY.
rattle
rattle
WHAT WAY?
HSOOOOOHM
THIS STORM IS PRETTY INCREDIBLE ISN'T IT?

rattle
rattle
JUST THE TWO OF US
FEELS LIKE WE'RE BACK ON THAT ISLAND
tremble
rustle
YEAH
haa

THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT
flutter
scratch
scratch
scratch
CREAK
ALL I CAN DO TO STAY A HUMAN BEING IS THIS
step
I CAN'T DO IT
CREAK

SHOVE
STOP IT!
DID SOMETHING ABOUT MY ACTIONS SUGGEST THAT I WANTED TO GO HOME?

THAT I WOULD BE HAPPIER IF I WENT HOME?
OR DID YOU THINK.
HOW CAN YOU PRESUME TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT I'M THINKING?
DAMN IT, I-...!
TEAR
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN A COMPLICATED MAN, CAPTAIN
THE THINGS I UNDERSTAND ABOUT YOU ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN
RIP
RIP
BUT STILL...

Tosp
ON THE SUBJECT OF WHAT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING TO YOU.
I HAVE A PRETTY GOOD IDEA.

Lost – End

Dokonimo Nai Kuni

kusama sakae

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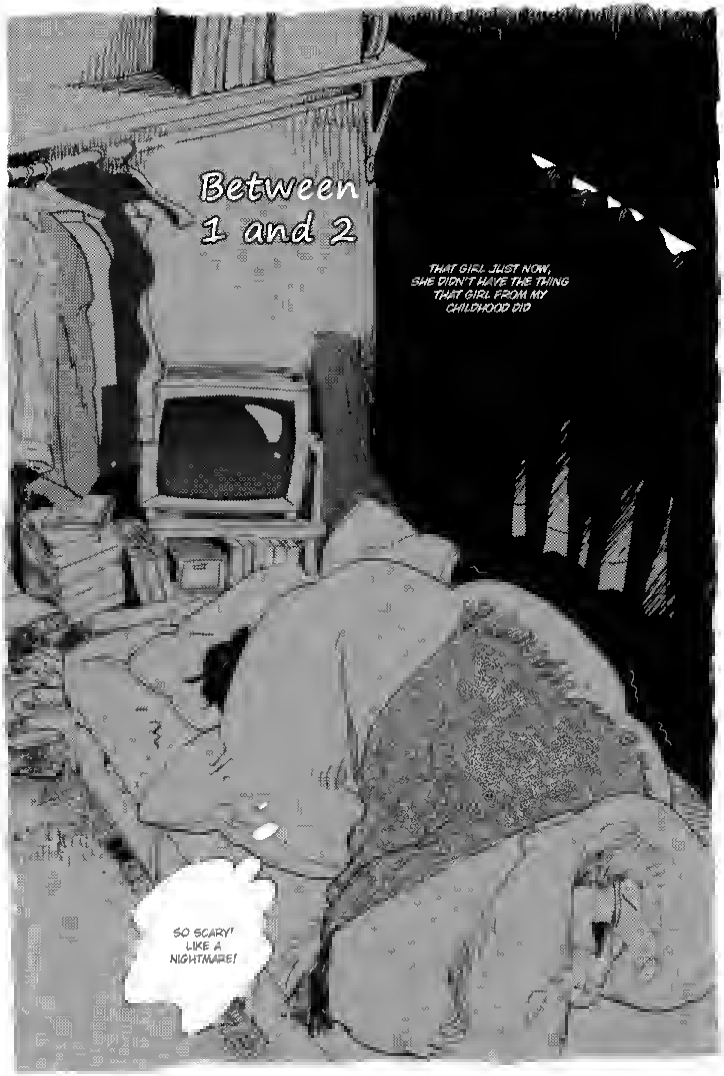
1

2

I WENT TO MY FIRST GOUKON ON THE INVITATION OF A FRIEND FROM MY PART-TIME JOB
TN: Goukon: dating party
UM... WAS IT MAMI-SAN?
THAT'S RIGHT!
ARE YOU DRINKING OOLONG TEA?
LISTEN WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GET OUT OF HERE?
AH.
HUH?
WHAT?
WAIT A MINUTE!

W-
WELL, YOU'RE-!
Ha! ha ha
WHAT DO YOU MEAN "MISSING"?
WHY-
WHY IS THAT BIT MISSING?!
I'M SORRY, I CAN'T!
NO!
SLAP
OW.
WHY
CRACK

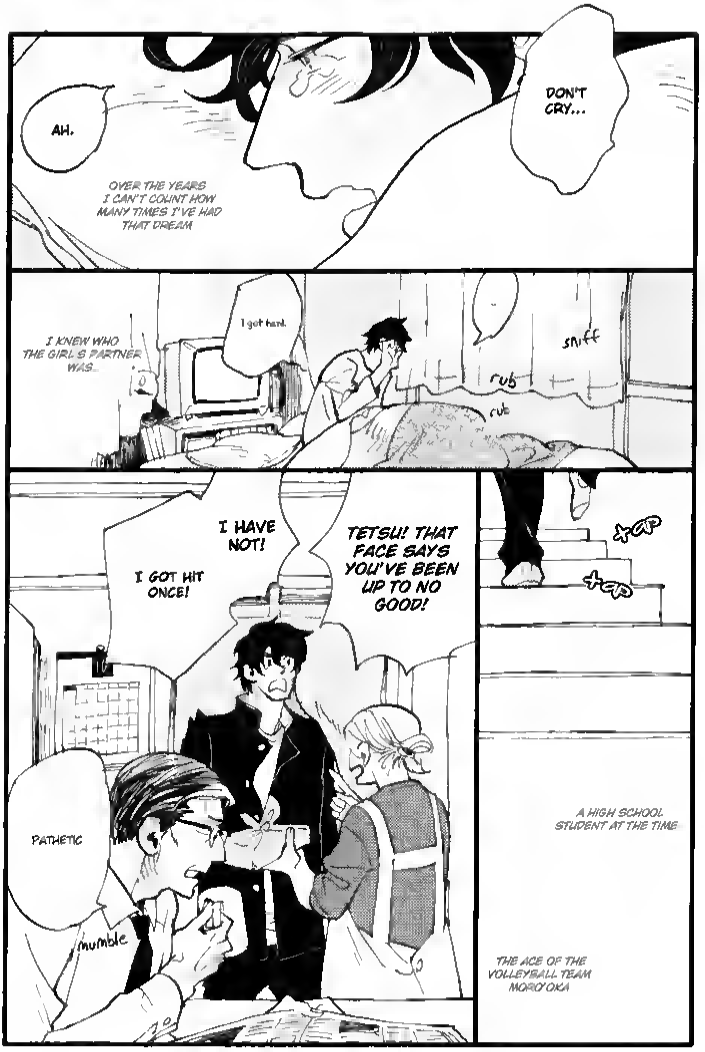

Between 1 and 2
THAT GIRL JUST NOW, SHE DIDN'T HAVE THE THING THAT GIRL FROM MY CHILDHOOD DID
SO SCARY! LIKE A NIGHTMARE!

THE FIRST TIME I SAW THAT GIRL WAS DURING MY SUMMER BREAK, 2 YEARS OLD IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD PARK, NEARING DUSK.
AND YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID YOU DIDN'T MIND DOING IT LOOKING LIKE THAT.
NO ONE'S COMING
STOP I CAN'T!

AH!
NOW I JUST HAVE TO CUM AND WE'LL BE FINISHED.
NGH...
SQUISH
!
BUT I NEVER SAID IN PUBLIC...
THRUST
!
I'VE BEEN INSIDE YOU FOR A WHILE NOW

!
SNAP
WAIT!
RELAX. HE DOESN'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE DOING.
NO!
LOOK AT THAT, IT'S A KID.
YANK
AH!
NO! PLEASE, DON'T LOOK!
IT WAS A HUSKY VOICE. SOMEHOW BOTH HIGH AND LOW.
NO!
AH!

I WON'T TELL, I WON'T, SO...
DON'T!
PLEASE!
PLEASE...
PLEASE DON'T TELL ANYONE!


AH.
DON'T CRY...
OVER THE YEARS I CAN'T COUNT HOW MANY TIMES I'VE HAD THAT DREAM
I KNEW WHO THE GIRL'S PARTNER WAS...
I got hurt.
sniff
rub
rub
I HAVE NOT!
I GOT HIT ONCE!
TETSU! THAT FACE SAYS YOU'VE BEEN UP TO NO GOOD!
PATHETIC
mumble
A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AT THE TIME
THE ACE OF THE VOLLEYBALL TEAM MORIO'KA

click
OK I'M LEAVING
Papa!
clang
HM?
Verbal abuse message
THE GIRL WITH THE MISSING PARTS FROM YESTERDAY!
flip
mail
from Mami
WHO?
WHO'S THAT?
RING
BUT

I MEAN, LOOK HERE. THEY'VE EDITED IT OUT, RIGHT?
He he he!
THERE'S NO CG HERE! IT WAS LIKE THAT TO BEING WITH!
?
For real?
DOES THIS MEAN SOME WOMEN DON'T HAVE ONE?
BUT HERE, THIS IS CLEARLY A COVERED-UP PENIS, RIGHT?!
RIGHT HERE!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE JOKING!
Ha ha ha!
Hee he he he
IT'S OCCURRED TO ME ONCE OR TWICE THAT TALKING TO YOU SOMETIMES GOES IN WEIRD DIRECTIONS. BUT
OH MAN, MY STOMACH HURTS!
And he brings in all these seedy pervo mags for us!

"DON'T TELL ANYONE!"
I KEEP TELLING YOU, IT'S NOT RIDICULOUS. I...
WHAT GOT YOU BELIEVING SOMETHING SO RIDICULOUS IN THE FIRST PLACE?
sigh
IF IT'S TRUE, EXPLAIN TO ME HOW YOU HAVE THAT HICKEY YOU GOT NAKED AND YET YOU'RE STILL A VIRGIN
A VIRGIN WITH A SLAP MARK ON HIS FACE!
WELL YOU GOT SLAPPED TOO, MITCHAN, RIGHT?!
THIS...
I GOT THIS FROM THAT ASSHOLE MORO'OKA!

HE'S AN ALUM FROM THE VOLLEYBALL CLUB. AND NOW HE'S THE NEW COACH
WE... DON'T GET ON
TALK ABOUT AN UNDERSTATEMENT!
NOWAY
HE'S IN OUR SCHOOL?
YOU KNOW HIM?
HE USED TO COME AND VISIT THOSE SIBLINGS NEXT DOOR A LOT
UGH THIS IS AWFUL!
YOU DON'T LIKE HIM?
OF COURSE I DON'T!
THAT GUY'S A COMPLETE PERVERT!
clatter

I'M GOING TO BUY SOME JUICE
TSURUTA?
AHHH! JUST HEARING ABOUT MORO'OKA GETS ME PISSED OFF!

COME TO THINK OF IT...
creak

THOSE BROTHERS ARE BOTH WORKING, SO THEY WOULDN'T BE HOME ANYMORE...
THAT GUY WHO CAME OUT FROM NEXT DOOR THIS MORNING...
...!
A SALESMAN? PROBABLY NOT, HUH
THE OLD LADY NEXT DOOR HAS A YOUNG LOVER!
1
HE CAME BACK HOME TRANSFERRED HIS JOB FROM FUKUOKA.
DUMMY THAT'S THE YOUNGER BROTHER, MASAYOSHI-KUN

AH...
YOU DON'T REMEMBER? HE USED TO ALWAYS READ THOSE PICTURE BOOKS WITH YOU.
HOW CRUEL
AND THAT TIME WHEN YOU WERE 8 AND GOT LOST...
HEY!
TETCHAN!
sob
wail

MASAYO-SHI-KUN!
Pant
SQUEAK
YEAH
Nod
I WAS REALLY SCARED!
I GOT LOST!
HEY
MASAYO-SHI-KUN.

NO
MASAYOSHI-KUN, ARE YOU ANGRY?
THEN WHY WON'T YOU TALK TO ME?
la lala la la...
The duck goes...
"quack, quack"...

honk
TETSUO
honk
WANT TO COME TO THE ELECTRONICS STORE WITH ME?
SORRY I CAN'T. I'VE GOT SUPPLEMENTARY LITERATURE AT 4
Tch
TSURUTA, DON'T YOU HAVE VOLLEYBALL?
?
MORI'OK#'S THERE, SO I DON'T WANT TO GO.
!
TAP

MORO'OKA!!
He's huge!
hum
THAT GIGANTIC PERV.
I hope he slips and cracks his head open.
OH! I'M SOR-...
MASAYOSHI-KUN?

ARE YOU OKAY? ARE YOU ANEMIC? YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET, YOU KNOW
TETCHAN...
KISH
AH!
JR
JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
!?
WOW!
Huh!?

I'LL PEDAL FOR YOU HOPE ON
NO IT'S OKAY
I GUESS THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE HEARD MASAYOSHI-KUN'S GROWN-UP VOICE!
...

I LIKE TO WALK
YOU DON'T USE ONE TO GO TO SCHOOL?
IT'S A LOT FASTER ON A BIKE, ISN'T IT?
HUH!? I REALLY WENT THAT FAR!?
click click click
THAT TIME YOU WERE LOST AS A KID. YOU ENDED UP IN THE NEXT TOWN, DIDN'T YOU?
relieved
...REALLY DON'T REMEMBER MUCH FROM THE TIME YOU WERE A KID, IS THAT RIGHT?
SO YOU...

I HEARD YOU MOVED INTO THE HIGH SCHOOL DORMS
STOP
clack
THEN YOU WENT TO A COLLEGE REALLY FAR AWAY
clang
clang
click
click
I WANTED TO GET AWAY FROM HIM.
HUH?
STOP
?
THAT WAS ABOUT THE TIME YOU STOPPED COMING OVER TO PLAY TOO
Huh?
OF COURSE I DO!
AFTER THAT YOU GOT REALLY MAD MASAYOSHI-KUN, AND WOULDN'T TALK TO ME

DO YOU EVER TALK TO HIM?
clang
clang
HUH? NOT A WORD...
clang
OH, MORIOKA?
OH.
UH.
MAYBE YOU REMEMBER, A FRIEND OF MY BROTHER'S FROM HIGH SCHOOL. AND NOW HE'S A COACH THERE...
relieved
clack
clang
clack
BUT BACK THERE AT THE STATION...
...YOU SAW HIM TOO, RIGHT, MASAYO-
WOOSH
HELL WITH HIM!

I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT HIM!
SOMETHING'S OFF
TETSUO
HAVE YOU SEEN TSURUTA? HE SKIPPED PRACTICE AGAIN

UH
WELL YESTERDAY HE ASKED TO GO TO THE ELECTRONICS STORE
HAS HE SAID ANYTHING TO YOU?
YOU CALLED MORI'OKA A PERVERT, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
MORI'OKA AGAIN!
IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH THOSE WEIRD IDEAS YOU HAD, RIGHT?
SERIOUSLY, DO YOU KNOW SOMETHING?
THAT GUY...

TELL ME. DOES HE GO AFTER MEN?
THAT WAS
THAT WAS...
PLEASE TELL ME. I WANT SOMEONE TO BACK ME UP ON THIS.
I CAN'T TELL...
SHOVE
I MADE A PROMISE!

I FIGURED IT OUT
FINALLY, I REALIZED **WHO** I'D SEEN THAT DAY AS A CHILD.

AH!
SPLAT
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO DO BRINGING THAT UP AFTER ALL THIS TIME?
MASAYOSHI-KUN!

grab
MASA-
!
CRASH
MASA-YOSHI-KUN!
WAIT!
MASA-YOSHI-KUN!
I'M SORRY.
I WASN'T ABLE TO HELP YOU BACK THEN.
I'M SO SORRY.

TETCHAN, THERE'S NO REASON YOU SHOULD BE APOLOGIZING
IT WAS ME...
...WHO WAS ATTRACTED TO MY BROTHER'S FRIEND, WITHOUT KNOWING AT ALL WHAT HE WAS LIKE ON THE INSIDE.
I LET HIM USE ME AND THAT'S WHY THAT HAPPENED
SO, TETCHAN...
...IT WAS HALF MY FAULT.
BUT YOU WERE CRYING!

THAT TIME, MASAYOSHI-KUN... Y-YOU WERE EVEN SMALLER THAN ME!
sob
AND YOU WERE...
sob
sniffle
sob
DON'T CRY LIKE A LITTLE KID.

BUT I'VE GROWN UP SINCE THEN!
SO I'LL PROTECT YOU.
I'LL PROTECT YOU, MASAYOSHI-KUN.
I WON'T LET YOU CRY LIKE THAT AGAIN.

Ma-
Nn.
MASAYOSHI-KUN!
Mas-
Pant
?!

CALL
From Mitchan
I'M SORR- AH MITCHA-!
SHOULDN'T YOU GET THAT?
IF I DO, I'LL HAVE TO BREAK MY PROMISE TO MASAYOSHI-KUN!
clack
grip
grip
I WON'T ANSWER!
DID MORO'OKA DO SOMETHING?!
TO ME?
IT'S ALL RIGHT ALREADY!
GRAB

HELLO?
CLING
I TOLD YOU IT WOULD ALWAYS BE A SECRET AND I PROMISED.
I'M SORRY.
THE PAST DOESN'T MATTER ANYMORE
THE REASON I DIDN'T TALK TO YOU AFTER THAT DAY YOU GOT LOST
I WAS EMBAR RASSED SINCE MY VOICE SOUNDED LIKE IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE S THAT'S ALL
—WAS BECAUSE AT THE TIME I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF MY VOICE CHANGING

I WASN'T MAD AT YOU
OKAY.
SQUEEZ
MASAYOSHI-KUN. TOMORROW . .
AND THE DAY AFTER.
LET'S GO TOGETHER TO THE STATION IN THE MORNING

AND THEN ON SATURDAY...
...LET'S GO ON A DATE

APPARENTLY MORIYOKA ANNOUNCED HIMSELF THAT HE'S RESIGNING AS COACH
WHAT? MITCHAN DIDN'T TELL ME ANYTHING ABOUT THAT...
ONLY BECAUSE I SPENT SO MUCH TIME AND BORROWED THREE CAMERAS JUST TRYING TO GET PROOF THAT HE TOUCHED MY ASS, AND CAME UP WITH NOTHING
REC
AND YOU'RE BUMMED ABOUT THAT?

OW!
grind
grind
grind
I'M PISSED SO I'M JUST GOING TO TAKE A BUNCH OF VIDEOS
MITCHAN, THAT HURTS!
DON'T SAY A WORD TO HIM.
OKAY...
NOT EVER.
THAT'S OUR SECRET

BY THE WAY WHO WAS IT THAT ANSWERED YOUR PHONE THAT DAY?
IT WAS *THAT GIRL* I MADE THE PROMISE TO!
OKAY BUT YOU GET THAT IT WAS **A MAN,** RIGHT?

Dokonimo Nai Kuni

kusama sakae

CREDITS

scanner: grif

translator: waters.of.babel

editor: grif

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NAKAMA www.nakamanga.com

reach
AH!
reach
NO!
Toss
ding dong
ding dong

Between
0 and 1
(Part One)

Ha ha ha!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, MITCHAN? WHY'D YOU CATCH THAT?
AND WHAT THE HELL DO I DO WITH IT?
IT'S GOOD LUCK, SO HANG ON TO IT!
Tsuruta Kou
Yamamoto Gu
Welcome
Wedd

GREAT VOLLEY-BALL STAR, TOP OF THE TEAM. MOST SUCCESSFUL PLAYER!
YO!
I'M SO JEALOUS!
BUT ENDED UP MARRIED TO A MODEL!
NOT ONLY SCOUTED BY A PRO TEAM,
HOW COME YOU'RE AT THIS TABLE?
HUH? TETSUO

WELL, 'CAUSE I'M THE ONLY ONE IN OUR CLASS
AND MITCHAN WENT HOME AFTER HE CAUGHT THE BOUQUET
THIS IS THE FAMOUSLY UNLUCKY TETCHAN, RIGHT?
He seems fun so I called him over
HE WENT HOME ALREADY?!
WHAT?! WHAT?!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS, IT'S MY WEDDING!

HUH?! WHAT DO YOU MEAN?!
YOU KNOW THE REASON HE WAS SUCH A DEMONIC VICE CAPTAIN?
BECAUSE THE CAPTAIN, MEANING YOU, WAS TOO SOFT ON EVERYONE
WELL, YOU COULD SAY
THAT MITSUYA IS FINALLY FREE FROM HAVING TO LOOK AFTER TSURUTA
That guy's super scary
THOUGH TO BE HONEST
...I'M GLAD HE WAS IN THE SAME YEAR AS YOU

HE DOESN'T LOOK AFTER ME AT ALL.
THAT'S NOT TRUE. LATELY ALL HE SAYS IS, "I'M BUSY".
AH, THAT'S A WOMAN FOR SURE
COME TO THINK OF IT, I DON'T EVER REMEMBER HEARING THAT MITSUYA HAD A GIRLFRIEND
tense

HE DOES

HE'S HAD A GIRLFRIEND FOR A LONG TIME
HE JUST WON'T SAY
I MEAN, IF HE DIDN'T, HOW COULD HE BE SUCH A GOOD KISSER?
HE'S GOT TO HAVE ONE
HUH? NO...WAIT
A drinking game maybe?
Huh?
You kissed him?
YOU'RE SO WEIRD
SORRY. THAT WAS JUST A DREAM I HAD WHEN WE WERE AT TRAINING CAMP.

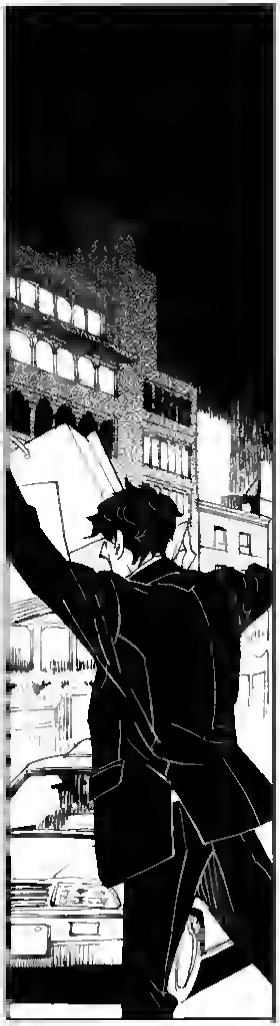
It's so sad
I CAN'T IMAGINE LIFE AT AN ALL-BOY HIGH SCHOOL. YOU MUST HAVE HAD SO MUCH SEXUAL FRUSTRATION...
SHUT UP, YOU!
I'VE HAD THAT DREAM A LOT, BUT IT IS PRETTY WEIRD, ISN'T IT?
THINKING ABOUT MITCHAN KISSING A WOMAN...
BUT WHEN YOU PUT IT THAT WAY...
...MITSUYA DID ALWAYS GIVE OFF A VIBE LIKE HE WAS DATING A MARRIED WOMAN
YEAH. A SECRET ROMANCE. MAYBE

A SECRET ROMANCE
type
type
chan
YEAH. IT'S ME. LISTEN.
Huh? It was just cakes and stuff though.
IF I SEE A PLATE WITH THEIR DAMN FACES ON IT, I'M GOING TO REALLY LOSE IT.
TOSS THEM
—I PICKED UP YOUR SHARE OF THE SOUVENIRS FROM THE WEDDING MITCHAN, SO—

ARE YOU DRINKING NOW, MITCHAN?
...
LEAVE ME BE.
I DON'T CARE...
...AS LONG AS HE'S HAPPY.

MITCHAN WHERE ARE YOU NOW?
STEP
SHOULDN'T YOU HURRY HOME?
NOPE!
SEE...
...MASAYOSHI-KUN HAS BEEN ON A BUSINESS TRIP SINCE YESTERDAY.
OKAY.
GOT IT! I'LL SEE YOU SOON.

TETSUO!



YEP!
NICE TO MEET YOU
IS THIS THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND MASAYOSHI-KUN?
YOU WON, HUH?
TSURUTA, YOU WERE REALLY COOL TODAY.
HEY, NOT JUST TODAY, RIGHT?
HUH?
step

DID MITCHAN GO TO THE BATHROOM OR SOMETHING?
AH
HE WAS HERE RIGHT UP TO THE END OF THE MATCH. I'M SURE
YEAH, UM. HE GOT A CALL FROM WORK, APPARENTLY
AGAIN?!
KOUSUKE
GOT YOU!
WHUMP

I SAID I'D BE GOING OUT DRINKING WITH MY FRIENDS TONIGHT, DIDN'T I?
HEY! I WAS THINKING LATER,
WE COULD GO TO MARI'S SHOP TOGETHER
WHAT?
AWW, WHY?
IT'S FINE IT'S FINE!
ANOTHER TIME
TOO BAD SO SORRY!
I'M SORRY GUYS!

Though he seems to be having fun which is good
I KNOW
HE'S GOT IT ROUGH
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO EAT ON THE WAY HOME?
COLD CHINESE NOODLES!
WAIT! I CHANGED MY MIND, LET'S HAVE SOMEN*!
CAN'T WE MAKE THAT AT HOME?
TO HOME THEN!

*Hyaan japanese noodles

TN: The yellow ginkgo leaves (yellow because they're falling) signify a change in season
EXCUSE ME I'LL JUST BE A MOMENT
UGH TETSUO
BEEP
SHUT UP. I KNOW ABOUT IT ALREADY
WOW
!!
LOOK I'M AT WORK RIGHT NOW—

It's online!
ORTS
esulting in an injury in a local
practice match
ctured anterior cruciate ligament
the knee.
to other ligaments.
A SPORTS MAGAZINE HUH?
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FOUND SUCH A TINY ARTICLE
YEAH I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL YESTERDAY
THAT GUY—
HE'S PRETENDING TO BE FINE BUT HE'S REALLY EXHAUSTED SO WAIT A BIT BEFORE YOU GO SEE HIM.

SLIP
AH!
WATCH OUT!
I'M FINE.
I'M FINE.
HA HA HA!

I CAN'T RUN OR JUMP ANYMORE... BUT...
MY HANDS STILL WORK JUST FINE.
AND THE PHYSICAL THERAPY...
WELL EVEN IF I DID GO BACK TO THE TEAM,
...I WOULD ONLY HAVE HALF A YEAR MAYBE A YEAR.
BUT...
SINCE I HAVE TIME NOW. I CAN GO DRINKING WITH YOU!
beep
beep
beep

OJAMA SHIMASU!
click
YOU JERK DON'T USE THE LAST TRAIN TO COME TO MY PLACE
Tadaima shimasu lit. "I am now" something you say (if you are able) when entering someone else's home
NOW I HAVE TO CALL YOU A TAXI IF YOU WANT TO GET HOME
WE BROKE UP LAST WEEK YOU KNOW
thump
IT'S COOL, IT'S COOL.

AH, NOPE
THAT'S A LIE
SHE DUMPED ME
clink
clink
SATTR
YOU GOTTA BE FUCKING KIDDING ME
AHH,
I JUST WANT TO GO BACK TO OUR HIGH SCHOOL DAYS

IF YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE ME FEEL LIKE THAT ALL OVER AGAIN...
I DON'T EVER WANT TO GO BACK

MITCHAN?
push
I'M *TIRED* OF YOU LEADING ME AROUND BY THE NOSE!
SLAM
!

UGH!
clatter
clatter
OW
slam
Dame it
MITCHAN, WHAT THE HELL?!
dribble

zip
dick

STOP IT!
push
SLAP
Mi-

WHAM
weakly
NGH!

pull
push
slick
NGH!
AGH!
AH!
AH!
AH!

UGH...
AGH...

Between 0 and 1 (Part One) • End

Dokonimo Nai Kuni

kusama sakae

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NAKAMA www.nakamanga.com

Dear Uncle,
What if I told
Love, Chuuuuuck
happy holidays!
love, nakama

nakama.manga@gmail.com

WE ***NEED*** TRANSLATORS

so be a sweet heart

AND JOIN US!

IT WAS...
...ONE SUMMER, AFTER A TOURNAMENT.
WE SKIPPED WATCHING THE FINAL...
...AND I TAGGED ALONG WITH HITCHAN, WHO WANTED TO SEE A MOVIE.
IT WAS A COMPLICATED MOVIE, AND I DIDN'T REALLY GET IT.

YEAH
YOU LIKE THIS?
I KIND OF DIDN'T GET IT
YOU WERE ASLEEP DORK
THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND IT WHEN YOU ONLY SAW SMALL PARTS
HMPH

IS THAT AC EVEN WORKING
blow
AGH!
HAHAHA!
HEHHEHHEH
HOW FUNNY THE SCAR HURTS MORE THAN WHAT HE DID

THIS, HUH...
MY ASS FEELS COLD, BUT...
...I'M NOT AS COLD AS I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT.
HA...
SILENCE
SO EVEN MITCHAN GOT ANGRY WITH ME
THAT SUCKS

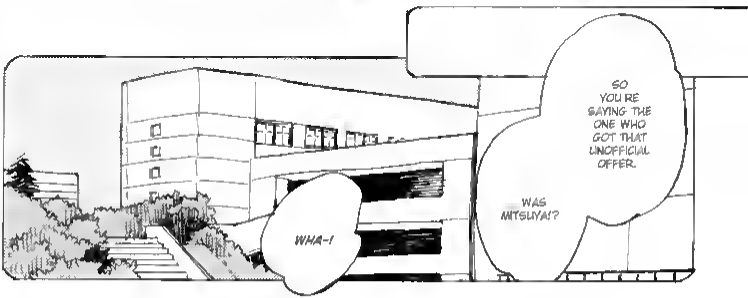
I GUESS.
THIS MEANS THAT EVERYONE HAS GIVEN UP ON ME NOW
I NEVER DID FIND OUT
HUH.
SPRAY

AH... IT DOES HURT AFTER ALL
...WHETHER OR NOT HE KISSES LIKE HE DID IN THAT DREAM

BUMP
NGH!
clack clack
I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?
I'M FINE. IT'S NOT BECAUSE OF THE LEG
clack
OH, RIGHT!
HERE YOU GO

EVERYONE'S GOING FOR A DRINK AFTER WORK
WHAT DO YOU THINK, TSURUTA-KUN?
WHEN YOU WERE A PLAYER, YOU DIDN'T GET TO GO OUT AT NIGHT BECAUSE OF PRACTICE, RIGHT?
grip
CHIEF!
OH, I SEE!
TSURUTA-KUN HAS THERAPY ON WEDNESDAYS
MY MIS-TAKE
DO YOUR BEST!
AND HURRY BACK FROM RETIREMENT!

I WAS SCOUTED FOR THIS COMPANY SO THAT I COULD PLAY ON THEIR TEAM
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
clack
BUT AT THIS RATE IF MY LEG
DOESN'T HEAL THEN
Come out with us next time!
Good night!
See you Monday!
Good luck with rehab!

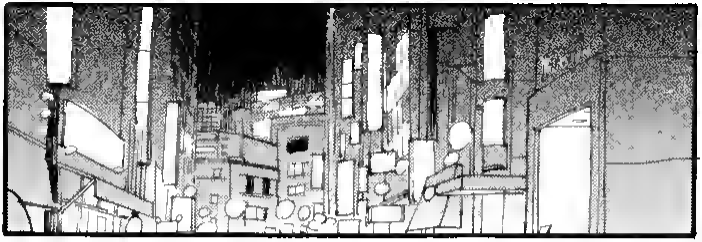


*This is physical therapy and they mention rehab also which is also the same thing (I'm his knee)

WHAT ABOUT THAT FILM DISTRIBUTION COMPANY YOU LOOKED INTO?
MITCHAN
NOW I'M STARTING TO GET MY HOPES UP
IT'S A REAL AGENT FROM HIROYOSHI!
CRAZY!
NOTHING DOING
YOU CAN MAKE IT TO THE PROS WITH VOLLEYBALL WORK HARD AT IT
I SEE...

YOU'LL NEED TO WORK HARD
AFTER ALL, YOU'RE NOT VERY TALL AND YOU LOOK LIKE A GOOD FOR-NOTHING
I JUST NEED TO WORK THAT MUCH HARDER, THEN!
I KNOW ALL THAT!
EVERYONE SAID HOW MITCHAN WAS SO SCARY
BUT OUT OF EVERYONE I KNOW,
YOU CAN DO IT

MITCHAN'S THE NICEST
21:37
IT'S JUST THE START TIME OF THERAPY...
I WON'T MAKE IT NOW



LOOK THERE ISN'T THAT TSURUTA FROM VOLLEYBALL!?
AH!
I CAN'T- HE PROBABLY HATES BEING APPROACHED IN SITUATIONS LIKE THIS ANY-WAY, AND
HUH?
Bmm.
HE GOES TO YOUR THERAPY CENTER, RIGHT MATSUNO-KUN?
GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!
THE OTHER GUYS FROM THAT OFFICE WERE SAYING HE'S SUPPOSED TO BE AT THE CENTER TONIGHT
WHAT'S HE DOING IN A PLACE LIKE THIS?

IF YOU'RE WORRIED, YOU COULD JUST ASK HIM
WELL, YEAH, BUT...
I'm not the coordinator or anything
TSURUTA WAS MY TEAMMATE IN HIGH SCHOOL
THAT'S RIGHT.
OH, MATSUNO-SAN?
YES
BEEP
I TRIED CALLING TOO BUT
I GUESS HIS BATTERY'S DEAD
Nagimoso calling
HANG ON, WHY IS NOBODY ASKING MITSUYA?

MITSUYA'S NOT ANSWERING EITHER!
WHO CAN GET A HOLD OF THEM!?
beep
unknown caller
MITCHAN!?
WHY WON'T YOU PICK UP WHEN EVERYONE'S TRYING TO CALL YOU!?

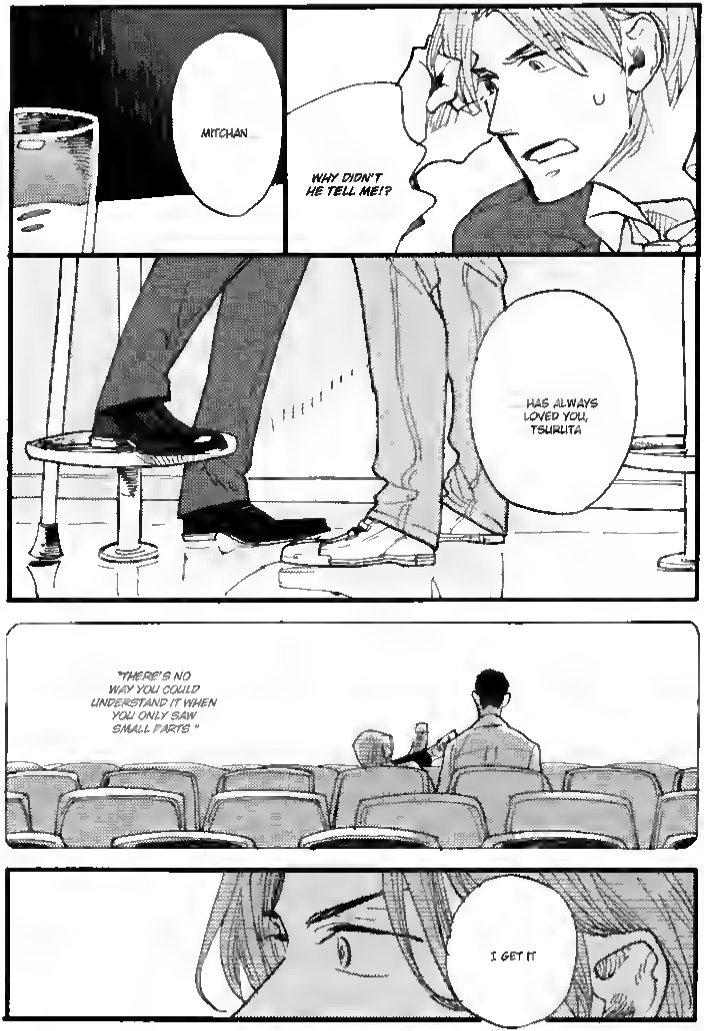
WORK!
TETSUO WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM?
LISTEN, I GUESS TSURUTA'S PHONE IS DEAD,
...AND HE JUST SKIPPED REHAB TO GO OUT DRINKING!
WE NEED YOU, MITCHAN-
I'VE.
YOU CAN BE MY REPRESENTATIVE
WHAT!?

"DID IT"...
WAIT...
DONE IT? DONE WHAT? WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I MEAN, MITCHAN, FOR SO LONG...
...YOU'VE BEEN HOLDING BACK FOR TSUKUTA'S SAKE! AND NOW...
I SHOULDN'T NEED TO TELL YOU..
...THAT I HAVE A SHORT TEMPER.
SO...

TETSUO? WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING HERE?
I'M HERE BECAUSE I GOT A CALL YOU SKIPPED REHAB, AND THEN...
THEN MITCHAN SAID...
AH!
BUT THE FIRST CALL WAS FROM THE VOLLEYBALL...
DID HE TELL YOU?
OBVIOUSLY...
I'M NO GOOD FOR HIM ANYMORE...

WH-...
I KNEW IT
HE ALWAYS USED TO TELL TETSUO EVERYTHING THAT GUY
IT'S-
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT! AND THE THING WITH MORO'OKA, I WAS JUST...
DID YOU HEAR FROM MITCHAN?
MORO'OKA?

MORO'OKA WAS THAT COACH IN HIGH SCHOOL, RIGHT!?
WAIT A MINUTE!
He was always...
WHY!?
WHY...
...DOESN'T HE EVER TELL ME!?
THE ONE CLOSEST TO ME AND YET
MITCHAN
— WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU TSURUTA

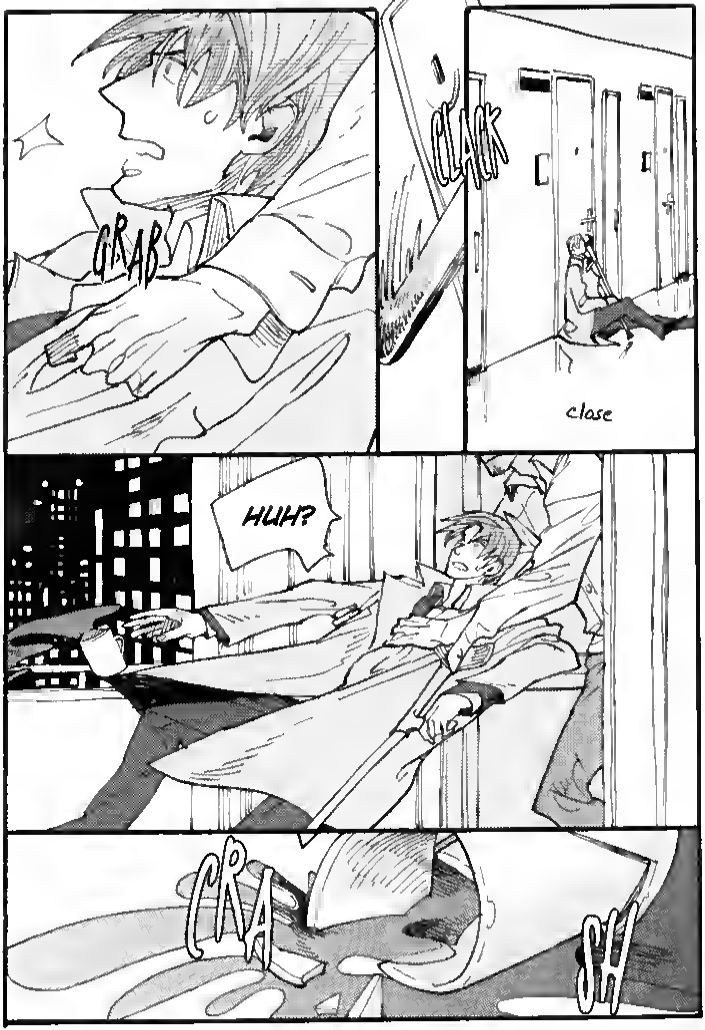

MITCHAN
WHY DIDN'T HE TELL ME!?
HAS ALWAYS LOVED YOU, TSURUTA
"THERE'S NO WAY YOU COULD UNDERSTAND IT WHEN YOU ONLY SAW SMALL PARTS."
I GET IT

bang bang bang
MITCHAN!
W-
HUH?
IF THAT DREAM...
...WASN'T A DREAM, THEN...

SHIT.
OOPS!
SILENCE
sigh
25
DING
!
bow
Nope I'm not suspicious at all

EXCUSE ME.
slide
I HOPE HE GETS BACK SOON.
Yes, good-night
I'LL BE ALL RIGHT. THANK YOU!
YOU KNOW...
MITSUYA-SAN ALWAYS GETS BACK LATE
I KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE
I HEARD FROM TETSUO
THIS IS THE VOICEMAIL SERVICE OF...
brrrrrrr brrrrr

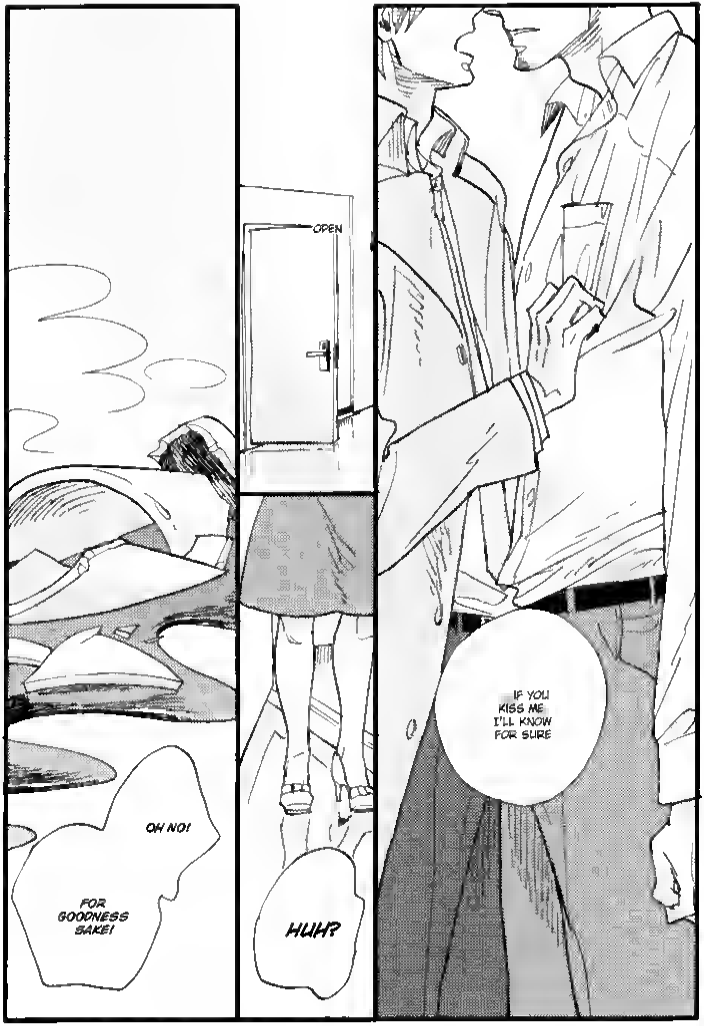
IT'S SO COLD HOW ABOUT SOME COCOA?
tap
CLACK
HUH?
OH, THANK YOU, BUT I—
COME NOW, YOU'LL CATCH A COLD
clack clack clack
OH NO!
IS THAT YOUR PHONE?
AH!
ring ring ring ring ring ring ring ring ring ring


GRAB
CLANK
close
HUH?
CRA
SH

SLAM
THAT IDIOT NEXT DOOR WILL BANG ANYTHING ON TWO LEGS!
WHAT IS YOUR PROBLEM!?
I DON'T KNOW
HOW IS IT YOU KNOW HER NUMBER?
WAS THAT CALL FROM YOU, MITCHAN?
WILL YOU TAKE ANYONE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MITCHAN?

SHUT THE FUCK UP!
GO HOME!
AND DON'T COME BACK, EVER!
I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS JUST AN ACT WHEN PEOPLE SEEMED SCARED OF YOU.
I NEVER KNEW

I ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A DREAM.
AND THAT DREAM I HAD ONLY DURING THAT TOURNAMENT...
I THINK...
BUT MITCHAN,



[Between 0 and 1 (Second Part) End]

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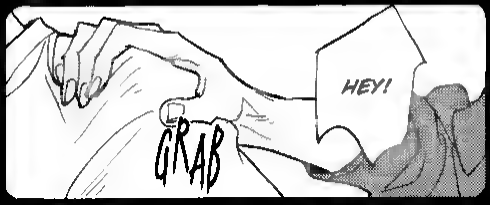
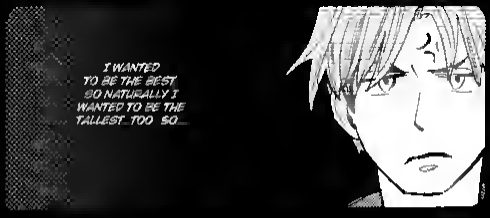
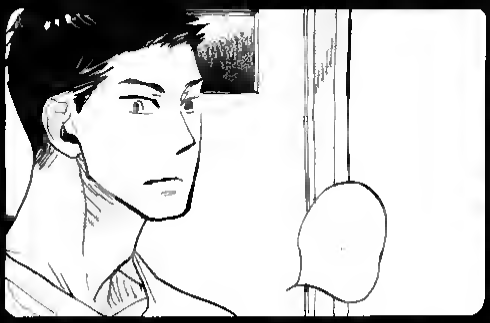
A World Between 0 and 1


GRAB
HEY!


I WANTED TO BE THE BEST SO NATURALLY I WANTED TO BE THE TALLEST TOO SO...

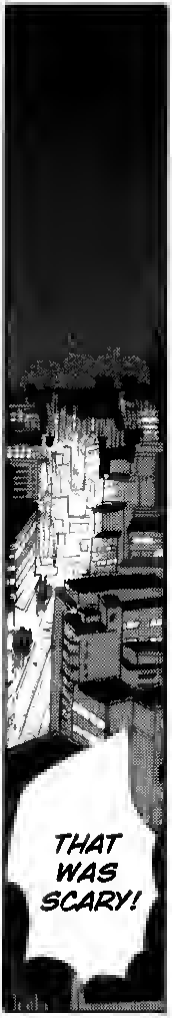
I'M NOT LOSING TO YOU! GOT THAT!?



MITCHAN WAS THE TALLEST OF THE FIRST YEAR MEMBERS

I'M GUESSING YOU REALLY HATE LOSING.
PROBLEM!?
We just need to win by 2 seconds max.
NO
You don't need to tell me!
I THINK TO A CERTAIN EXTENT THAT'S WHAT MAKES A GOOD PLAYER.
bump
NN.

MITCHAN ARE YOU LEAVING?
YEAH.
HUH?
WORK IS PILED UP THIS WEEK
I MIGHT BE LATE FOR DRINKS TONIGHT TOO
UM-HUM.


THAT WAS SCARY!

DON'T GO BACK TO SLEEP
YOU'LL BE LATE
MMKAY
MITCHAN'S KISSES ARE ALWAYS SO SWEET JUST LIKE IN MY DREAM
I'LL CALL IF IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T MAKE IT
OKAY

I DO REALLY APOLOGIZE ABOUT THAT
I STILL PLAN TO RETURN IN THE WINTER.
I WAS WORRIED TOO!
OF COURSE!
WHAT'S THAT ABOUT?
I WANT HIM TO GET ANGRY SOMETIMES!
SERIOUSLY THOUGH MITSUYA HAS ALWAYS BEEN TOO SOFT ON YOU
YOU LIAR!
You were always really self-ish!
UNLIKE THE REST OF YOU I NEVER DID ANYTHING WRONG
THAT'S YOUR FAULT, TSURUTA, FOR SKIPPING THERAPY!

BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN HOT-BLOODED HASN'T HE?
LIKE OH YEAH...
YOU REMEMBER, THERE WAS A COACH CALLED MORO'-OKA?
AH THE ONE WHO QUIT RIGHT AWAY?
HE SMACKED ME ONCE YOU KNOW

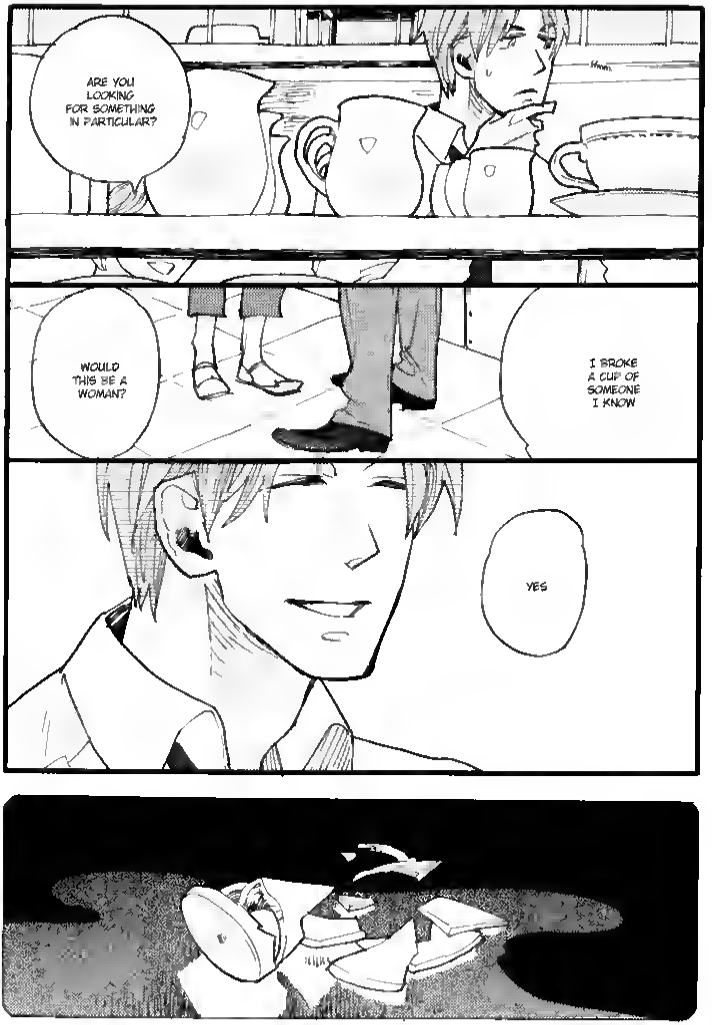
WHAM
A SEMPAI OF MINE FROM MIDDLE SCHOOL WENT BY THIS UNDERPASS
— AND SAID HE SAW MITSUYA BEATING THE CRAP OUT OF MORO'OKA
IT WAS RIGHT BEFORE THE SPRING TOURNAMENT SO I ASKED HIM ABOUT IT—

I MADE SURE IT WON'T BE A PROBLEM FOR THE TEAM
YEAH, BUT--!
AND YOU'RE GOING TO KEEP QUIET ABOUT IT TOO
GOT THAT?
IT WAS TERRIFYING!
IN MY YEAR I SAW HIM GOING AFTER SHIMABARA, THAT FIRST YEAR
AH!
I WONDERED WHY THAT GUY QUIETED DOWN ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHO WAS THAT?
A FIRST-YEAR WHEN YOU WERE CAPTAIN

OH, RIGHT
THE ONE WHO KEPT GETTING ON MY CASE EARLY ON
IT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE TOO SOFT, SO HE GOT AHEAD OF HIMSELF
YOU DIDN'T ACT MUCH LIKE A CAPTAIN, HUH?
HAHAHA
SO THEN THE DEMONIC VICE CAPTAIN MADE HIS APPEARANCE
COULD IT BE...
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A GOOD GUY, NORMALLY
HE DOESN'T HOLD BACK ON ENEMIES DOES HE?
...IT'S ONLY MY ENEMIES?
BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ
JUST SCARY ONCE IN A WHILE

IT TURNS OUT THE ONLY TIME HE EVER WASN'T
HE'S STUCK AT WORK SO HE SAYS HE'D LIKE TO COME NEXT MONTH
WHAT?
THAT SCARED ME!
I ONLY EVER KNEW A GENTLE MITCHAN
AH
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL. A MESSAGE FROM MITCHAN.
KYAA!
Wah!

WELCOME
SEE YA
YEAH


ARE YOU LOOKING FOR SOMETHING IN PARTICULAR?
I BROKE A CUP OF SOMEONE I KNOW
WOULD THIS BE A WOMAN?
YES

14
YAMAURA
DING
WELCOME
clang clang
YES?
SO SORRY TO TROUBLE YOU AT NIGHT I'M FROM NEXT DOOR, I--
OPEN
tap
tap
tap
tap

I'M REALLY SORRY ABOUT THE OTHER DAY
BUT THAT'S AMAZING!
PUFF
YES. BUT I'M SUSPENDED NOW BECAUSE OF AN INJURY
SO YOU'RE A VOLLEYBALL PLAYER?
SNIFF SNIFF
NOT AT ALL!
YES. WE WERE ON THE SAME TEAM IN HIGH SCHOOL
SHE'S AWFULLY CHUMMY
MITSUYA-SAN IS SO TALL TOO

STROKE
YOUR HANDS ARE SO BIG AND YOUR SKIN IS SO WHITE
BUT YOU KNOW, IT'S FASCINATING
IS THAT SMELL PERFUME? MAYBE MAKEUP?
WE PLAY INSIDE, YOU SEE

IF HER SMELL STICKS ON ME MITCHAN IS PROBABLY JUST GOING TO GET MAD LIKE BEFORE

HE'S NOT AS SHORT-TEMPERED OR VIOLENT AS PEOPLE THINK.
DING
I'M SURE...
MITCHAN IS A GOOD GUY
OPEN

AND EVEN THE REASON HE IS NOT AS NICE TO OTHER PEOPLE IS PROBABLY BECAUSE OF ME

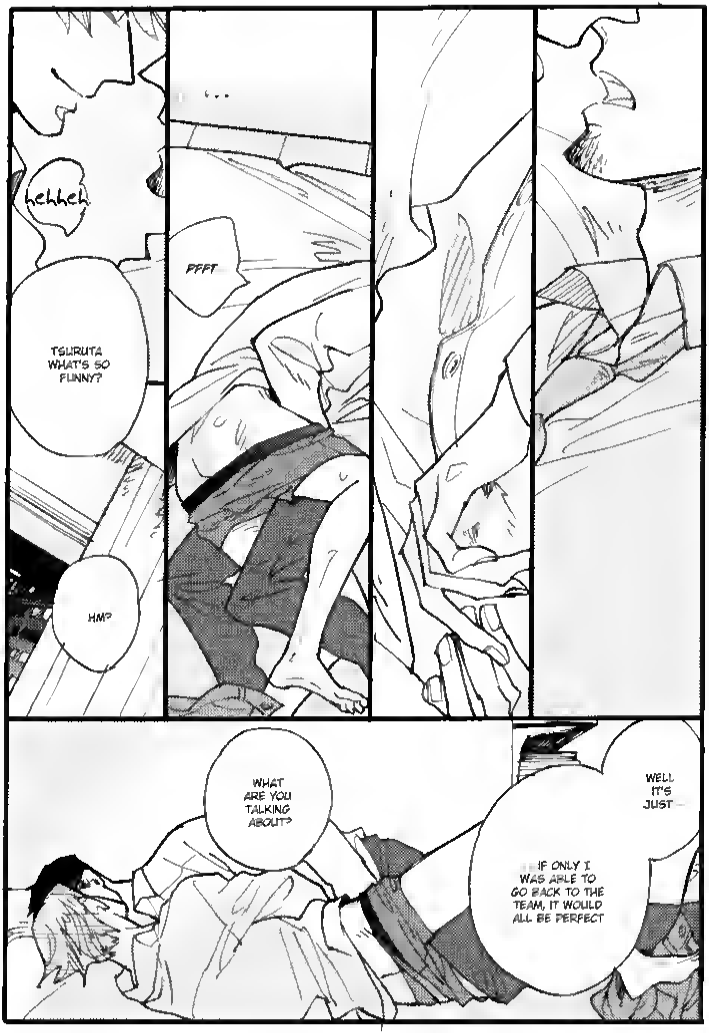
WE DIDN'T DO ANYTH--
hahaha
GET IN THE SHOWER
YOU SMELL LIKE PERFUME
GRAB
WHAT?
ARE YOU MAD?

SHOVE
STUMBLE
UGH!
gasp

AH...
I'M FINE
I'M FINE
IT JUST
GOT TWISTED
A LITTLE
I'M
SORRY
I PROMISE
I'M FINE.
OH,
COME ON
MITCHAN

ARE YOU CRYING?
IT'S OKAY WE REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING
WELL SHE HELD MY HAND
I'M SORRY...
IT'S OKAY
I'M SORRY.

WHO SAID HE HAD TO BE JUST ONE OR THE OTHER?
AND IF I'M REALLY EVERYTHING TO HIM...
THEN THAT MEANS THE KIND MITCHAN AND THE VIOLENT MITCHAN THEY BOTH BELONG TO ME


hehheh
TSURUTA WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
HM?
...
PFFT
WELL IT'S JUST
IF ONLY I WAS ABLE TO GO BACK TO THE TEAM, IT WOULD ALL BE PERFECT
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

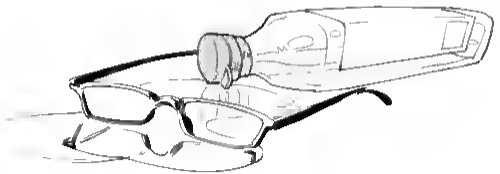
YOU'RE SO EASILY DISTRACTED
!
MITCHAN!
I'LL JUST USE MY FINGERS.
WAI-
WE CAN'T TODAY!
HUH?

TSURUTA
UHH..?

NN...
...MORNING.
LEAVING EARLY AGAIN?
NO, I MADE BREAKFAST.
YOU KNOW... MITCHAN, IT SEEMS LIKE
...YOU'RE ALWAYS NICER TO ME WHEN I'M SLEEPING
AND YOU'RE ALWAYS BETTER TO BE AROUND WHEN YOU'RE ASLEEP
WHAT THE HELL!?

YOU'RE ALWAYS UP TO NO GOOD WHEN YOU'RE AWAKE...
Like visiting a girl's room at night for example.
OKAY...
BUT WHEN THAT GIRL NEXT DOOR HELD MY HAND AND SAID "YOU HAVE SUCH WHITE SKIN,"
Hehehe
WOULDN'T YOU CALL THAT A COME-ON?
YOU...
...STILL THINK YOU CAN DO IT WITH GIRLS?

JUST LAST NIGHT, YOU COULDN'T COME TILL I HAD MY FINGERS INSIDE YOU
HUH!?
ARE YOU JOK-ING!?
EVEN IF YOU GET IT UP, I GUARANTEE YOU'LL GO SOFT IN THE MIDDLE
THAT COULDN'T--
HEY
WAIT A SECOND!



Dokonimo Nai Kuni

kusama sakae

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translator: waters.of.babel

cleaner: grif

editor: aripie

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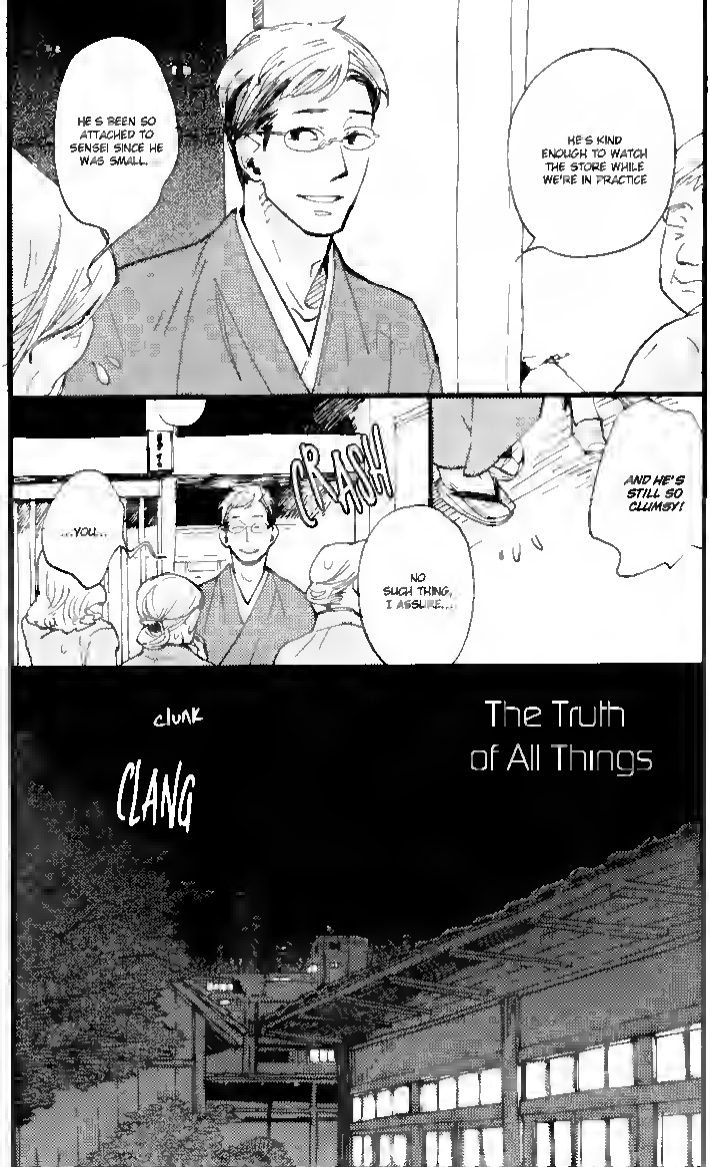
EVERYONE, PLEASE TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME!
ALL RIGHT, NEXT WEEK WE'LL BE DOING WARI* PRACTICE.
WAKA-SENSEI...
...I HOPE MY AKI ISN'T CAUSING YOU MUCH TROUBLE...
OF COURSE NOT. HE'S A LOT OF HELP

*TN: TN: Wari practice: how to take each movement in the tea ceremony separate and make them smaller. then practicing each part over and over until each movement becomes basic.


HE'S BEEN SO ATTACHED TO SENSEI SINCE HE WAS SMALL.
HE'S KIND ENOUGH TO WATCH THE STORE WHILE WE'RE IN PRACTICE
CRASH
AND HE'S STILL SO CLUMSY!
...YOU...
NO SUCH THING, I ASSURE...
clunk
CLANG
The Truth of All Things

I'M SORRY

W-
WELL, SEE YOU NEXT WEEK!

YOUR GREAT AUNT WAS SAYING JUST NOW AND I HAVE TO AGREE
—YOU COULD USE A BIT MORE CARE WHEN HANDLING THINGS
IT'S TRUE
WAS IT EXPENSIVE?
I'LL PAY-
AKI
THAT'S NOT REALLY WHAT I MEANT

PEOPLE WHO DON'T TREAT OBJECTS WITH CARE...
...DON'T GET TREATED WITH CARE THEMSELVES
...
?
BUT BY CHANCE...
THAT ONE WASN'T EXPENSIVE
BUT YOU CARED A LOT ABOUT IT, DIDN'T YOU?

WELL
ANYTHING THAT HAS SUBSTANCE IN THIS WORLD WILL EVENTUALLY—
KOUSUKE-SAN, ARE YOU MAD?
I-
I'M SORRY!
WELL, IF IT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE TENMOKU CUPS OVER THERE
I PROBABLY WOULD HAVE HIT YOU

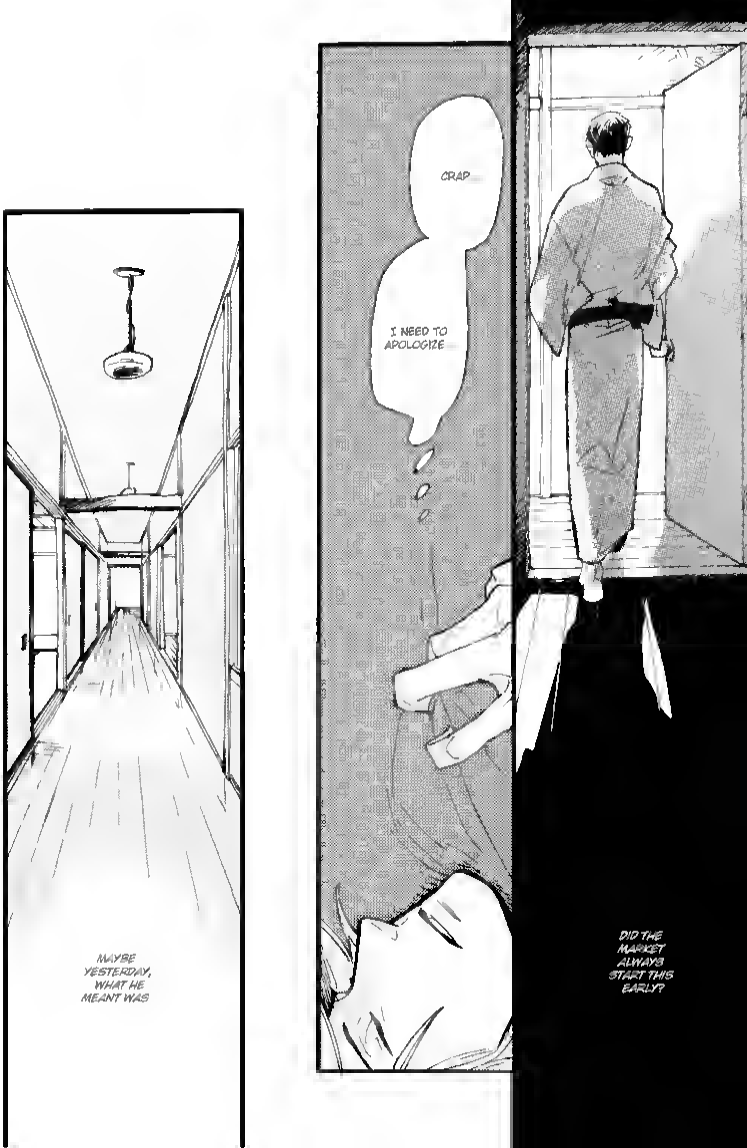
DID YOU GET TALLER?
HUH?
OF COURSE I DID!
IT'S BEEN HALF A MONTH SINCE YOU TOUCHED ME, KOUSUKE-SAN!
WOW
KIDS JUST KEEP GROWING DON'T THEY?
OKAY, THEN, KOUSUKE-SAN!

I REALLY CAUGHT YOU WITH SEX
AKI
PISSED
YOU DON'T MIND IF I HAVE MY WAY WITH YOU, RIGHT!?
SO...
OKAY, SO...
ARE YOU SAYING YOU LET A KID DO THIS TO YOU!?
I WONDER.
Ehehe!

FINE THEN!
THIS IS DEFINITELY MY DOING, RIGHT!?
WELL... THAT'S TRUE
SO WE REALLY SHOULD STOP HERE...
IF YOU'RE HONEST...
pull
TOMORROW'S MARKET DAY. I HAVE TO GO AND STOCK UP. OKAY?
AKI?
RIP

THUMP
YOU DON'T REALLY WANT TO BE WITH ME DO YOU?
YOU MUST NOT HAVE VERY GOOD EYES.
TONIGHT—
—YOU CAN MAKE SURE OF THAT ONE MORE TIME IF YOU LIKE
The frames will get bent
But can you at least take off my glasses?

step
MNH?
IT'S OKAY, DON'T GET UP.
HUH?
Well then
SEE YOU LATER


CRAP...
I NEED TO APOLOGIZE...
DID THE MARKET ALWAYS START THIS EARLY?
MAYBE YESTERDAY, WHAT HE MEANT WAS

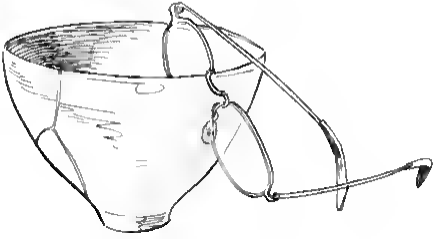
IF YOU DON'T VALUE THINGS YOU WON'T BE VALUED
SUDDENLY
THAT'S IT!
OH GOOD MORNING
HERE. LOOK AT THIS
It didn't have a box, but it was a bargain, old Karatsu ware*, and such a nice shape, it fits so well in my hands...
KOUSUKE-SAN! I'M SORRY!

*TN: Karatsu ware: pottery made in Saga prefecture from iron-rich clay

?
WHAT'S THIS ALL OF A SUDDEN?
clatter
LAST NIGHT
I BROKE THAT CONVER-SATION TOO DIDN'T I?
IF YOU DON'T TREAT THINGS WITH CARE THEY'LL BREAK.
YOU HAD TO GET UP SO EARLY BUT I STILL... LAST NIGHT...

THAT'S RIGHT... THIS...
THE BROKEN CUP...
OH... HUH?
DON'T THROW IT AWAY!
I WASN'T GOING TO
I'M HAPPY WITH IT...

LOOK BROKEN THINGS CAN BE FIXED
With lacquer and glazing
I'LL TREAT EVERYTHING WITH CARE FROM NOW ON!
I'M GLAD TO HEAR THAT, BUT... TAKE IT EASY--HUH?



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HAPPY 11TH ANNIVERSARY NAKAMA AND BLESSED BE YAOI!
To be continued onto the 12th year...

From the Faraway Island

ACHOO!
SPLASH
IT'S ALREADY AUTUMN ISN'T IT?
SPLASH
SPLASH
SPLASH
I'M SORRY WE ENDED UP HERE OUT OF SEASON AS A RESULT
IT'S FINE
crunch
WE PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TAKE A VACATION TOGETHER
IF YOU HADN'T GOTTEN INJURED
THERE ARE SO FEW PEOPLE IT'S NICE

brush
brush
THEY CAN REALLY GET WASHED SO FAR BY THE CURRENT
YES
IT'S A PALM SEED.
LOOK.
SOMETIMES I GET THE FEELING HE'S STILL NOT USED TO BEING BACK HOME
HUH?
FLING

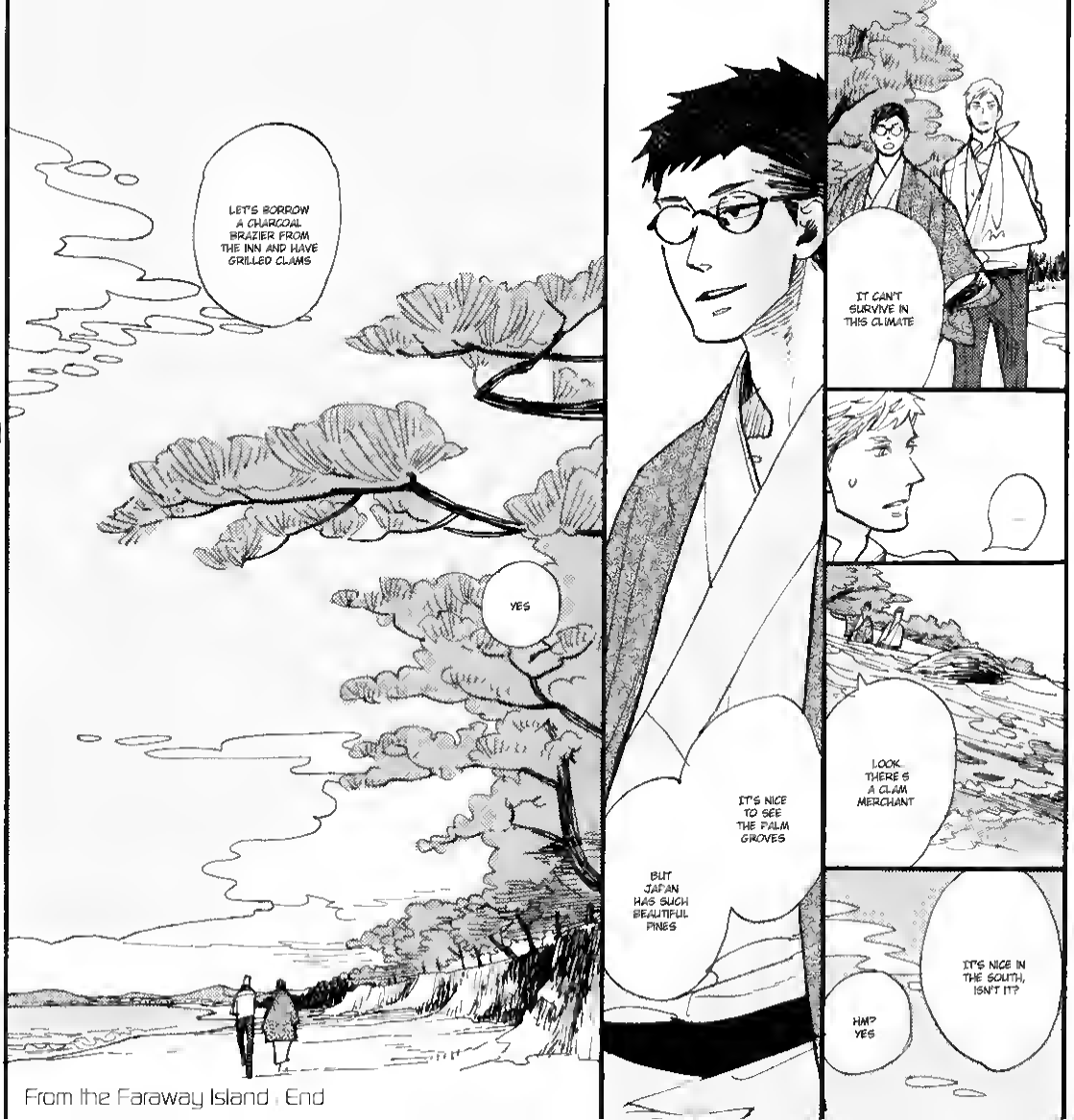
Atogaki:

Thank you so much for reading "Doko ni mi Nai Kuni".
It's a compilation of four sets of stories, from past to present.
"Doko ni mi Nai Kuni" and "Paradigm Lost" are concerning the well-put-together Hayakawa and the PTSD-affected Takeuchi, and their daily lives as they return from war.
By "Doko ni mo Nai Kuni"(The Country That Doesn't Exist), I mean a utopia. I don't really understand the word "paradigm", I just use it to set the mood.

"Between 1 and 2". This concerns the big happenings around the idiot Tetsuo and Masayoshi-kun. Misunderstandings can really hurt you. If you choose to think of Tetsuo as pure, rather than a moron, I think you'll be happier with the ending.
"Between 0 and 1" and "A World Between 0 and 1" is a story of a mended lid for a cracked pot, where the victim, Mitchan, becomes the ill-natured Tsuruta's mended lid.

"The Truth of All Things", a story of a young man and the neighborhood tea ceremony teacher. It's a manga I feel like a whole a long time ago. Actually, it's not just a feeling, it was a really long time ago.
Altogether, this volume isn't particularly full of heartwarming tales, but if you enjoyed it, then I'm happy.
To all my readers, and my editor, I am very grateful.

2011.8 草間さかえ


LET'S BORROW A CHARCOAL BRAZIER FROM THE INN AND HAVE GRILLED CLAMS
YES
IT'S NICE TO SEE THE PALM GROVES
BUT JAPAN HAS SUCH BEAUTIFUL PINES
IT CAN'T SURVIVE IN THIS CLIMATE
LOOK, THERE'S A CLAM MERCHANT
IT'S NICE IN THE SOUTH, ISN'T IT?
HM? YES

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